

## Board of Directors

### Officers

Rev. D. Dale Mullennix, *President*  
Paul M. Walker, *Vice President*  
George W. Campbell, *Treasurer*  
Susan L. Zielinski, *Secretary*

### Courtney Alexander

John Bambach  
Tom L. Brown  
Gerald Fox  
David Furman  
Bobbi Gagnon  
Bert Green  
Elizabeth Jordak  
Bruce Noll  
Sara L. Pressly  
Ivon Rohrer, Jr.  
James M. Talley, Jr.  
James G. Wallace  
Lou Weber

### Ex Officio

Angela Coleman

### Executive Director

Jermayne D. Cook, MSW, LCSW

Newsletter Design: Emily Furman

Newsletter Editor: Judith Toman

St. Peter's Homes is a non-profit organization. All donations are tax-deductible.

Member of the Charlotte Apartment Association.

*To volunteer or make a financial contribution, contact Jermayne Denny Cook at 704-335-9380, or via e-mail: [jcook-sph@carolina.rr.com](mailto:jcook-sph@carolina.rr.com)*

St. Peter's Homes exists to provide affordable housing to alleviate homelessness and human suffering. To this end, McCreesh Place is a single-room-occupancy apartment community located in north Charlotte providing sixty-three permanent housing units with on-site supportive services to formerly homeless, disabled men.

St. Peter's Homes is supported by Jeremiah 29:7 group including, Mecklenburg Ministries, United Way of the Central Carolinas and the following churches: Myers Park Presbyterian, First Presbyterian, Myers Park Baptist, Myers Park Methodist, Christ Episcopal, Covenant Presbyterian, Providence United Methodist, St. Mark's Lutheran, St. Gabriel's Catholic, and Holy Comforter Episcopal. Sandis Presbyterian Church, St. Peter's Catholic Church, and Friendship Missionary Baptist Church provide additional financial resources.

### The Residents' Association has requested donations of the following:

coats	paper towels
socks	hand-wipes
toilet tissue	mops and mop buckets
brooms	shower curtains
gloves	toilet brushes
hats	washable bath mats
dish towels	dish detergent
trash bags	dish drainers
tissues	anti-bacterial hand soap



P.O. Box 5303  
Charlotte, NC 28299



# ST. PETER'S HOMES JOURNAL

Volume 4, Issue 2 2005

## From the Executive Director



December 2005 marks the beginning of the third year of operations for McCreesh Place. The vision has become a reality. At any point in time, sixty-three men who are living with disabilities have a stable permanent home here. They are secure in knowing that they can afford their rent and that case managers can assist them in obtaining the services they need to assure their ability to live independently.

The gentlemen at McCreesh Place are overcoming the adversity of catastrophic illness or injury and loss of everything in their lives including their housing. They are healing and becoming part of a supportive, caring community. They are a diverse group with varied backgrounds and education levels. The conditions that caused their financial hardship include: schizophrenia, spina bifida, diabetes, head injury, heart disease, stroke, bipolar disorder, addiction, renal failure, autism, AIDS, mental retardation, fibromyalgia, loss of limb, spinal cord injury, major depression, hip fracture, and cancer. The common denominator for the residents was the lack of income to afford fair market rental housing. McCreesh Place has been the solution...and the gentlemen are thankful.

At a recent property management meeting, I asked the residents what they would like for the community to know about them and McCreesh Place. Here are some responses.

- I feel safe here.
- Lots of the guys are getting better... I finally went to the eye doctor. I didn't know how to go about it till I got here.
- My case manager helped me find a job.
- I finally got a wheelchair... I can do that here.
- I'm getting new teeth.
- My sister finally came to see me here... she wouldn't come to see me at the shelter.
- I'm thankful for a safe, secure place to stay... having our own room... something a lot of us haven't had in a long time... being able to live a normal life and not have to worry 24 hours a day where I'm going to eat, sleep, wash clothes.
- There are residents, here, who volunteer everyday at other places... giving back to the community... we're a thriving community... a giving community.
- McCreesh Place allows people to get their lives back on track. Thanks to the community for letting us establish this residence here.
- I appreciate being given a second chance.
- (McCreesh Place) allows us to live with dignity and respect.
- (McCreesh Place) helps me feel better about myself and I want to give back.
- This is the safest place I've ever lived.

Thank you for making McCreesh Place possible. Your support has been tremendous.

As you consider your giving this holiday season, please remember the gentlemen at McCreesh Place. We still need your help to sustain their hope and "peace of mind." Will you make this holiday season even more meaningful with a financial gift? If you would like a tour, please feel free to contact me at [jcook-sph@carolina.rr.com](mailto:jcook-sph@carolina.rr.com).

Thank you,  
Jermayne

## Meet new staff members—Ameer Green and Delores Reid-Smith



**Ameer Green** came to St. Peter's Homes on October 3rd from Genesis House in Gastonia, where he worked with both adolescents and adults with severe and persistent mental illness or developmental delays. He is a Kannapolis resident since 2001, originally from Supply, North Carolina near Wilmington. Ameer played basketball and football at West Brunswick High School in Shallotte. Ameer has been married for two years and his wife works for the US Postal Service in Charlotte. He is also a licensed life and health insurance agent and mortgage loan officer in his off hours. In his spare time he likes to shop, especially on eBay™, for sports memorabilia and toys. He also collects and rides motorcycles; his favorite is a '97 Suzuki GSXR, a racing bike that puts a twinkle in his eye.

Ameer's job as case manager at McCreesh Place is to help residents make connections with the community for services they need and use, such as food stamps, clothing, and medical treatment. He looks forward to promoting Independent Living to help residents move from the mindset of homelessness toward taking pride of residence and independence in their forward movement through life. He enjoys working with individual residents to this end.



**Delores Reid-Smith** is the new Operations and Property Manager. Her job is to run the offices at St. Peter's Homes smoothly; she is also responsible for making sure that rents are paid on time and that facilities at McCreesh Place are in working order and maintained well. Delores comes most immediately from the Community School of the Arts, and she has extensive experience with the NC Correctional System where she assisted individuals making the transition to independent living after leaving the facility.

Delores is married to James Smith, Jr, who is a retired Air Force officer; she is mother of three and grandmother of four. Delores says that she and James attended the same school, graduating in the same class but they didn't know each other at the time.

Delores is pleased to have had early success in her first three weeks on-the-job, getting CATS to move bus stops on North Davidson to increase convenience for residents including those needing handicapped access to public transit. She sees herself as an advocate for the residents in dealing with the community and has already arranged for residents to register to vote. She looks forward to creating incentives for residents to keep McCreesh Place clean and in good repair and helping residents embrace the ideas of both becoming independent and responsible renters. Delores strives to continue to strike a balance between authority, and remaining approachable and sensitive in her work with residents at McCreesh Place.

## Welcome to new board members:

### **Courtney Alexander**

*Executive Director, Lakewood Preschool*

Courtney Alexander has been Executive Director of Lakewood Preschool Cooperative for three years. She received her degree from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She serves as Associate Minister of Marvin African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in Waxhaw, NC

### **John Bambach**

*Myers Park Baptist Church*

John Bambach graduated from Belmont Abbey College in 1971, which he attended as an emigre from Long Island. As Coordinator of the Cornwell Learning Center at Myers Park Baptist Church, John develops and teaches courses in a variety of technology-related and supported areas. An M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction emphasizing Child Development, his career in education, media and technology has included faculty positions at UNCC and York Technical College and teaching at CPCC. At York Tech he developed and managed the departments of Teleproductions Technology and Instructional Media Productions. He subsequently served as a Program and Production Manager for SC Educational Television. His work in other community support capacities includes Theater Charlotte, the Boy Scouts, and as he was one of the originating members of the Light Factory.

### **Dr. Bruce Noll**

*Carolinas Medical Center*

Dr. Bruce Noll is Vice-Chief of Psychiatry at Carolinas Medical Center and Associate Medical Director for CMC-Randolph Behavioral Health Center. He has been with Carolinas Medical Center since 1990. He received his undergraduate degree in Pre-Medicine from Pennsylvania State University and his medical degree from Temple University School of Medicine. He completed his psychiatric residency at Duke University Medical Center, serving as Chief Resident in 1985-1986. His special areas of interest include dually diagnosed patients with severe mental illness and substance abuse, developmentally disabled patients with mental illness, and the homeless mentally ill.



Residents enjoying a Thanksgiving meal prepared by volunteers.



Julie Ellalasingham planned the luncheon and the children helped serve.